

REMARKS

In the present Amendment, independent claims 1 and 17 have been amended to recite that the fine polymer particles in the ink receiving layer of the ink-jet recording medium are selected from the group consisting of homo- or co-polymers of vinyl monomers, ester polymers, urethane polymers, amide polymers, epoxy polymers, and modified products and copolymers of these polymers. This amendment is supported, for example, by the description at page 13, lines 6-14 of the specification.

In addition, new claims 20 and 21 have been added.

Claim 20 depends from claim 1, and recites that the fine polymer particles are homo- or co-polymers of vinyl monomers or urethane polymers.

Claim 21 also depends from claim 1. This new claim recites that the ink-jet receiving layer further contains a boron compound. Support for claim 21 may be found, for example, at page 19, line 18 of the specification.

Upon entry of the amendments, which is respectfully requested, claims 1-21 will be pending.

In Paragraph No. 1 of the Action, claims 1-10 and 12-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Yoshino et al (U.S. Patent 5,955,185).

Applicants submit that this rejection should be withdrawn because Yoshino et al '185 does not disclose or render obvious the ink-jet recording medium of the present invention.

The Examiner asserts that Yoshino et al '185 discloses an ink jet recording medium in which the ink receiving layer contains fine polymer particles. According to the Examiner, the

alumina hydrate disclosed in Yoshino et al '185 constitutes the fine polymer particles. See, for example, page 3, line 2 of the Detailed Action.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's characterization and understanding of Yoshino et al. Alumina hydrate is not a polymer. Thus, the ink receiving layer of Yoshino et al, which contains an alumina hydrate, is structurally distinguished from the ink receiving layer of the present invention, which contains fine polymer particles.

Further, independent claims 1 and 17 recite that the fine polymer particles are selected from the group consisting of homo- or co-polymers of vinyl monomers, ester polymers, urethane polymers, amide polymers, epoxy polymers, and modified products and copolymers of these polymers. Yoshino et al does not disclose or suggest the use of fine polymer particles, let alone fine polymer particles selected from the recited Markush group.

In view of the above, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1-10 and 12-16 based on Yoshino et al '185.

In Paragraph No. 2 of the Action, claims 17-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Yoshino et al '185.

Applicants submit that this rejection should be reconsidered and withdrawn for the same reasons that the rejection of claims 1-10 and 12-16 based on Yoshino et al '185 should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

In Paragraph No. 3 of the Action, claims 1-2 and 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Yau et al (U.S. 2004/0090512 A1).

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Applicants submit that this rejection should be withdrawn because Yau et al is not prior art with respect to the present application.

Yau et al's effective date as a reference under §102(e) of November 7, 2002 is later in time than Applicants' priority date of September 18, 2002. To perfect their claim to priority and remove Yau et al as a reference, Applicants submit herewith a sworn English translation of their priority document JP 2002-272083 and point out §112 support for the recitations of the present claims in the translation of the priority document as follows:

Present Claim	§112 Support in Priority Document
1	Claim 1; [0026]
2	Claim 2
3	Claim 4
4	Claims 1 and 3
5	Claims 1 and 5
6	Claim 6
7	[0030]
8	Claim 7
9	Claim 8
10	Example 1, [0122]
11	Example 1, [0122]
12	Claim 9
13	[0034]
14	Claim 10
15	Claim 11
16	[0022]

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17	Claim 1; [0026]; [0139]-[0142]
18	Claim 3
19	Claim 5
20	[0026]
21	[0040]

In view of the above, Applicants submit that Yau et al is not prior art with respect to the present application, and the rejection based on Yau et al should therefore be reconsidered and withdrawn.

In Paragraph No. 4 of the Action, claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Yau et al.

Applicants submit that this rejection should be withdrawn for the same reasons that the preceding rejection based on Yau et al should be withdrawn.

In Paragraph No. 5 of the Action, claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Yoshino et al (U.S. Patent 5,955,185) in view of Onishi et al (U.S. Patent 5,662,997).

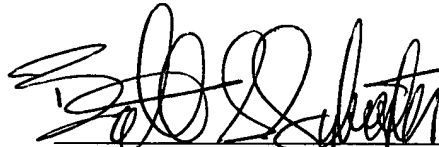
Applicants submit that this rejection should be withdrawn for the same reasons that the rejections of claims 1-10 and 12-16 and claims 17-19 based on Yoshino et al alone should be reconsidered and withdrawn. Onishi et al '997 does not make up for the deficiencies of Yoshino et al '185.

Allowance is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brett S. Sylvester", written over a horizontal line.

Brett S. Sylvester
Registration No. 32,765

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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CUSTOMER NUMBER

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